

## Annual Statewide Independent Living Education Day

SCIL staff and consumers attended the Annual Statewide Independent Living Education Day on Beacon Hill Wednesday, April 22, 2009. Staff and consumers met with their local representatives to discuss the Independent Living budget and other concerns, and had an opportunity to interact with people from other independent living centers. Unfortunately, independent living centers lost \$6,000 in their allocations for this upcoming fiscal year.

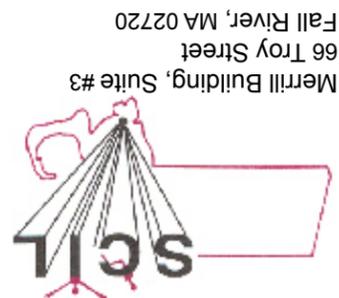
We would like to thank all of our representatives for their time and efforts, with special thanks to Representative David Sullivan for joining us at our table and speaking on our behalf.



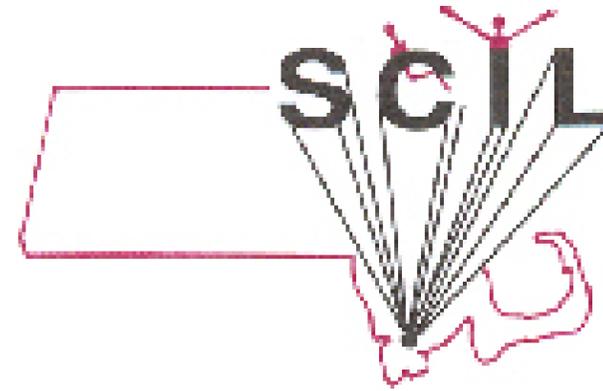
## Computer Classes

The next 8-week cycle of courses will begin on the week of July 14th. Introduction to Computers begins on Tuesday, July 14th. Introduction to Keyboarding and Data Entry begins on Wednesday, July 15th. Introduction to Word, Excel, PowerPoint, or Access begins on Thursday July 16th. All classes are from 10-12 a.m. or 2-4 p.m.

Southeast Center for Independent Living, Inc.



Merrill Building, Suite #3  
66 Troy Street  
Fall River, MA 02720



SCIL, Southeast Center for Independent Living, Inc.

Fall River Office Contact Info:

Merrill Building, Suite #3  
66 Troy St.  
Fall River, MA 02720

Phone / TTY: 508 - 679 - 9210

New Bedford Office  
*by appointment only:*

800 Purchase St., Rm 311  
New Bedford, MA 02740

Phone: 508 - 994 - 2040

Fax: 508 - 677 - 2377 Email: [scil@secil.org](mailto:scil@secil.org) Web: [www.secil.org](http://www.secil.org)

 All SCIL Offices & Events are Scent Free 

# SCIL Gazette Newsletter, Issue: Summer 2009

## Transition Services

### at SCIL in the Spotlight:

### SCIL awarded new TAP

### Contract and hosts second

### UMass Dartmouth program

### for Mass Hospital School students.

Ten years ago SCIL was one of the first IL Centers in Massachusetts to be awarded funding for TAP, the Transition to Adulthood Program, and our program has grown to be one of the most effective in the Commonwealth. The initial contract expired this fiscal year. MRC issued a new RFR, and we are pleased to report that we have been awarded a new contract that will support our transition services for the next four years.

Michelle Sabino serves as our TAP Residential School Coordinator. Under her direction, on June 2, 2009, for the second time, SCIL hosted an event at UMass Dartmouth that brought students from the Mass Hospital School (MHS) to tour the UMass Dartmouth Campus, have lunch, and hear from University professionals about the opportunities offered by the university. Included in the presentations were:

\*Carole Johnson, former director of Disabled Student Services and currently the First Year Academic Specialist for the Center for Access and Success.

\*Professor Lester W. Cory, the founder and director of the SHARE program of the Center for Rehabilitation Engineering, and Chancellor Professor Emeritus of the

College of Engineering, Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering.

\*Paul Remy, an alumnus of UMass Dartmouth and member of SCIL's Board of Directors. Mr. Remy is a free-lance author who continues to support his alma mater through his involvement in SHARE Foundation and other university projects.

\*Michelle presented on the subject of Independent Living.

In addition to six students from MHS, members of staff and administration of the MHS transition program attended the event, as well as William Boffa, SCIL's Director of Programs.



## Our Own Filomena Tripp-International Star!

One of our independent living specialists, Filomena Tripp, accepted an invitation to meet with Mr. Roberto Medeiros, the Vice President of the City Council of Lagoa, Sao Miguel, Azores. He had heard about her and her skydiving adventures during a meeting for the local Day of Portugal and was interested in meeting Filomena, who was born in Lagoa. Mr. Medeiros has been working for years building a wide range of cultural exchanges between the Azores and the communities of SCIL's service area. He met with Filomena at her home in New Bedford and spent three hours talking with her, looking at pictures and videos, and learning about Filomena's life in the Azores and the United States and her quest for independence. A half-hour video was filmed at her home showcasing Filomena completing daily activities in her life. Mr. Medeiros also was interested to learn about SCIL. Filomena provided him with our brochures in Portuguese. He plans to use all these materials to inform the Portuguese community in Lagoa of all that Filomena has taught him about her remarkable life. We understand he intends to spread word of Filomena's accomplishments throughout the Azores and beyond, because he has extensive contacts with Portuguese communities around the world.

## Erica Costa returns to SCIL

SCIL welcomes our student intern, Erica Costa, for a second summer. Erica has made such valuable contributions to our work that we have asked her back, and she will be joining us in late June. Her internship is sponsored by the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind. Erica has completed her second year in residence at Bridgewater State College where she is majoring in social work with a minor in criminal justice. This year she will be shadowing our staff to gain experience in the field to support her studies. Welcome back, Erica! We look forward to having you with us!

## Meet Pamela Roy

Pamela Roy is one of SCIL's consumers who has achieved independence and is living on her own in an accessible apartment in Fairhaven. Pamela

was born with her disability, arthrogryposis, a joint and muscle disease in which her muscles did not form completely and her joints are fused together and do not bend properly. Usually, according to Pamela, this condition affects either the upper or lower extremities, but in Pamela's case, it affected both sets of extremities. However, that doesn't stop Pamela! As a child, she was involved with Easter Seals and attended their camps. She remains very active and enjoys all sports, especially baseball and the Red Sox, even traveling to Florida to watch spring training every year. She likes being on her computer and going to the beach. She is also an avid animal lover. Before obtaining her own apartment, she lived at home for thirty-eight years with her mother. Pamela volunteers at one of the local elementary schools where she works with children with special needs.

While she has always received much support from her family, she really loves being independent. She is a great advocate for herself. She says, "It feels good to be independent. It has improved my self-esteem and attitude, knowing that I can accomplish tasks by myself." Pamela's next goal is to obtain her driver's license and purchase a vehicle with modifications.



## Sailor Valentines

SCIL is pleased with the number of participants in our art project, but there is always room for one more... To date we have 17 valentines completed. Our goal is 35 by September.

Just in case you missed our last call, we are making pictures in wooden framed boxes using sea shells. The pictures have a "love theme" harkening back to the day of whalers in the Victorian era. Men and women can participate. Instruction and materials are provided.

SCIL would like to invite our consumers to share in a unique opportunity to learn how to create a sailor

valentine. We will have five classes with space for 8 students, so if you would like to participate, please let us know. You must let us know if you are coming, so that we can prepare properly. The valentine you create will become part of a SCIL fund-raiser. The classes will be held at SCIL on Tuesday afternoons from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. beginning Tuesday, July 21st

## TAP's Summer Driver's Ed Program

SCIL's TAP program again will be running a summer school driver's education program to help students obtain their learner's permits. Students must be 16 years old or older. Classes will be held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, July 13, 14, 15 and July 20, 21, 22, from 10-11:15 A.M. We are waiting for word from the Registry of Motor Vehicles to confirm the testing date, and expect it will be for some time that last week. The test typically is administered here at SCIL under a special arrangement with the Registry. As soon as we have confirmation of the date, students who have signed up will be notified. You must call SCIL at 508 679-9210 to reserve your place in the classes.

## Take Me Out to the Ball Game.....

Like baseball? Join us as we journey to Pawtucket, Rhode Island to see the Pawtucket Red Sox play the Scranton Wilkes-Barre Yankees on Tuesday, August 4, 2009. The bus will be leaving SCIL's office on Troy Street at 10:30 a.m. Game time is at 12:05. We estimate that we will be leaving the park at around 3:30 p.m. to return to SCIL around 5:00 p.m., barring traffic complications. For security reasons at the park, all items are subject to search, including purses, backpacks, camera and bags of any size, binoculars, and any electronic recording devices. No outside food or beverages are allowed in the park with the exception of one 16 oz. sealed bottle of water. There are concession stands at the park offering the usual fare of hot dogs, hamburgers, pizza, soda, peanuts, crackerjacks, etc. Consumers will be responsible for their own purchases at the concessions. Seating is limited and is on a first come first served basis. Tickets are \$9.00. To sign up and for more information, please call SCIL at 508 679-9210.

## SCIL Car Wash

SCIL held its annual car wash on Saturday, June 6 at Advance Auto Parts on Tucker Street in Fall River. The weather cooperated and we raised \$202.00.

We thank Mike, the manager at Advance Auto Zone and his staff for being such great hosts, Seth Hockert-Lotz of Domino's Pizza for providing us with pizza for the event, Francis Verville for his assistance, and Dick Johnson, our neighbor in the Merrill Building on Troy Street, for his generous donation.



## Emergency Preparedness Meeting

SCIL and the Massachusetts Office on Disability partnered with the City of New Bedford Emergency Management Department and the New Bedford Commission for Citizens with Disabilities to host an Emergency Preparedness meeting at Coastline Elderly on April 30, 2009. The purpose of the meeting was to explore how to ensure that people with disabilities have the assistance they need in times of emergencies and to start a dialogue between them and First Responders. Fifty-eight people attended the event with a good cross section of representation: thirty-two attendees identified themselves as persons with disabilities, thirteen as first responders, and eleven indicated they were both persons with disabilities and first responders. (Two did not indicate either on their registration.) Presenters were Jeffrey L. Dougan, Assistant Director for Community Services, Massachusetts Office on Disability, and Louise A. Arnold, Accessibility and Inclusion Planner, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency. People with disabilities received an Emergency Go Pack with items that might be needed during an emergency, and First Responders received "Tips for First Responders, 2nd Edition." Results from the written evaluation of the event by the participants were very favorable.

